

## CEVE 406/ENST 406 Spring 2015 Course Syllabus

CEVE 406/ENST 406 – Introduction to Environmental Law – is intended to provide a broad understanding of the system of laws and regulations regarding the natural and human environment. The course is taught by Jim Blackburn, a practicing environmental attorney and Professor of the Practice in Environmental Law and is offered T/Th at 1:00 p.m. in Duncan Hall 1064. Blackburn's email is [jbb@blackburncarter.com](mailto:jbb@blackburncarter.com) as well as [blackbur@rice.edu](mailto:blackbur@rice.edu) and his office is Mech Lab 256. Office hours are by appointment. Blackburn's assistant is Dale Cordray. She can be reached at [dalecordray@blackburncarter.com](mailto:dalecordray@blackburncarter.com) if you wish to set up a meeting.

The course is intended to introduce the student to United States environmental laws, including major acts such as the National Environmental Policy Act, the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the hazardous waste laws and the Endangered Species Act, including the relationship of these laws to the state legal system as well as the international legal system. This semester, major attention will be focused upon climate change and the unfolding efforts to address carbon emissions and negative externalities associated with climate change as well upon a potential appeal of the "whooping crane case" to the U.S. Supreme Court by the professor. Upon completion of this course, the student should have a very good understanding of the philosophy and extent of the regulatory system associated with the various environmental issues as well as the policy underlying various forms of control or inaction.

Attendance in this course is not recorded. However, on occasion, pop quizzes may be offered in class. If you are not in attendance, you cannot make the pop quiz up unless you sent an email to the instructor stating that you would be absent from the class before the pop quiz was distributed. Additionally, class discussion is often helpful in understanding the reading material and the professor reserves the right to use class discussion as a basis for adjusting a grade upward (but not downward). All students are encouraged to ask questions at any time and to participate in open class discussion.

There will be three open-notes, take-home examinations and a class presentation this semester. The three exams will count 20% each, and the

presentation 35%. The remaining 5% will be determined by pop quizzes. The professor reserves the right to waive the last exam for some of the students who excelled on the first two exams.

The course materials will be provided by the instructor in the form of PDFs that will be posted on Owlspace. The readings for each class are noted in the attached outline. These may be changed or supplemented as the semester unfolds. The exams are timed take-home exams where you are allowed to refer to your notes and course material. You are expected to comply with the honor code and sign your exam stating that you complied with the time restriction and that you did not otherwise receive assistance. The presentation is a group project. Each student is expected to do his/her fair share of the work.

If you are a student that requires special assistance, please let the professor know about any special needs and every attempt will be made to accommodate them. The professor reserves the right to modify these requirements with sufficient notice to the class.